(c) the steps Government have taken so far to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There are five Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody.

(c) Government maintain regular contact with the Government of Sri Lanka through diplomatic channels for securing the earliest release and repatriation of detained Indian fishermen.

Restructuring of KVIC

†*67. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Khadi and Village Industries Commission has decided to shift from conventional industries of the country and encourage setting up of new industries to keep pace with the modernization in the era of globalization;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard; and

(c) the changes proposed by the Commission in the existing structure of village industries in the light of the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is committed to promote and develop traditional village industries in the country. It also encourages setting up of new industries to keep pace with such demands in the market.

(c) The KVIC is not perceived to be a financial institution and hence the KVIC has replaced 'Pattern Based Approach' with 'Project Based Approach', wherein the projects are appraised by the Banks. The KVIC's assistance, earlier was restricted mainly to a few traditional industries, however, now all kinds of industries are permissible except a small negative list.

Cut-Off of Indian News for the Indian High Commission in Islamabad

*68. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has cut-off Indian news for the Indian High Commission in Islamabad;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the protest made for infringement of the right to information; and

(c) the Pakistan Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) On 23rd September 2001, reportedly under direction from the military regime in Pakistan, the Karachi-based Cable Operators Association announced that they would block distribution of Indian TV news channels. Pakistan authorities, however, denied that they had issued any such instructions. Following the announcement by the Karachi association, Cable Operator Associations in Lahore and Islamabad also cut off distribution of Indian TV news channels. As a result of these steps, officials in the Indian High Commission, Islamabad, were unable to view certain Indian news channels for some time. Since then, however, alternative arrangements have been made to ensure that our officials in the High Commission of India, Islamabad, have full access to Indian news and information.

Uranium dust in the Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad

*69. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad, air is thick with Uranium dust;

(b) whether it is also a fact that inhaled Uranium dust leads to lung burden and even lung cancer or other deadly side effects; and

(c) if so, what preventive measures have been taken by Government to avoid health hazards for the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No Sir.

(b) Uranium has very low specific radioactivity. However, inhaled uranium dust beyond certain limit could lead to high levels of uranium in the lung. High lung burden persisting for long time could lead to some deleterious effects.

(c) Adequate engineering safety features have been incorporated in the design of the plant facilities as per the international standards for handling natural and low enriched uranium oxide materials. Wherever necessary, leak tight containment of equipment and proper ventilation have been provided in order to ensure that uranium aerosol in work area is well below the permissible